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Eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1886 (2009), 1941 (2010), 2005 (2011), 2065 (2012) and 2097 (2013), in which the Council requested me to submit a report on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). The report covers the period from 1 March 2013 to 31 August 2013 and provides an update on the planned completion of the mandate of UNIPSIL and the transfer of responsibilities to a United Nations country team, as requested in paragraph 3 of resolution 2097 (2013).

II. Major developments

2. During the reporting period, the Government of Sierra Leone started the review of the 1991 Constitution. On 12 July, it launched its third poverty reduction strategy, known as the "Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018)". The case filed by the main opposition party, the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), challenging the results of the presidential elections of November 2012, was dismissed on procedural grounds by the Supreme Court on 14 June. On 8 April 2013, Guinea completed the withdrawal of its forces from the disputed town of Yenga, located in the eastern Kailahun district of Sierra Leone, in accordance with an agreement signed on 27 July 2012 with Sierra Leone, on the demilitarization of the town. Major preparatory steps for the complete drawdown of UNIPSIL by 31 March 2014 were taken during the reporting period.

A. Political developments

3. The overall political situation in the country was calm and stable during the period under review. In a press release dated 9 May 2013, the State House informed that President Ernest Bai Koroma would not run for a third term of office, in accordance with the restriction of presidential tenure to two consecutive terms, as contained in the 1991 Constitution. It also stated that the constitutional review process would not alter the presidential term limits.

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4. On 14 June 2013, the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone dismissed the petition filed by SLPP challenging the results of the presidential election held in November 2012. On the same day, SLPP issued a press release expressing its disappointment that "justice had been sacrificed on the altar of procedural irregularities". The Sierra Leone People's Party however called on its supporters to remain calm while it explored other legitimate options. It should be recalled that on 30 November 2012, the party had requested the Court to nullify the election on the grounds of alleged fraud and irregularities in the process. In its ruling, the Court held, inter alia, that the petition had not been filed within the seven-day period from the date of the announcement of the election results, as stipulated in the related law.

5. The National Electoral Commission conducted parliamentary by-elections on 30 June 2013 for constituencies 29 and 62 in Tonkolili and Bombali districts, following the appointment of the incumbent members of Parliament to ministerial positions. The by-elections were peaceful, despite minor altercations during the campaigning and disagreements within the ruling All People's Congress (APC) on the choice of its candidate for constituency 62. Meanwhile, the results of the parliamentary by-elections of November 2012 for constituencies 5 and 15 in Kenema and Kailahun districts were yet to be announced by the National Electoral Commission, owing to unresolved legal challenges.

6. On 30 July, President Koroma inaugurated the Constitutional Review Committee, to be chaired by Justice Edmund Cowan, the Ombudsperson and former Speaker of Parliament, to oversee the process for the review of the 1991 Constitution. The Committee comprises 80 members drawn from the country's registered political parties, democratic institutions such as the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission, as well as the National Youth Commission, the National Council of Paramount Chiefs, the National Union of Students, the Sierra Leone Bar Association and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists.

7. During the inauguration ceremony, President Koroma called for an inclusive constitution that would reflect the country's unity in diversity. He further called for the constitution to be "people friendly, easy to understand, and easy to follow". The President stated that the review should capture the country's renewal and dynamism, while drawing on lessons learned from the country's constitutional history. He stressed the importance for the review process to meet best international practices of constitutionalism. He called on the Committee to hold inclusive public consultations throughout the country and to use technological tools to ensure the widest possible participation of Sierra Leoneans in the process. He also indicated that the Constitutional Review Committee would submit its recommendations on the processes prescribed in the constitution to the Government, which would subsequently review and forward them to the Parliament. If approved, they would be submitted to a referendum thereafter.

8. The Committee has begun developing its workplans and is expected to complete the review process within 24 months. At the request of the Government, the United Nations and Sierra Leone's international partners are providing technical and financial support to the review process. The Government is contributing 26 per cent of the total budget of $4.1 million. The rest will be provided by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland, the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Peacebuilding Fund.

9. On 1 August, the Political Parties Registration Commission, with the support of UNIPSIL and the Peacebuilding Fund, held an interparty dialogue on the constitutional review process in Freetown, with the country's 10 registered political parties. The dialogue was mainly aimed at informing and seeking the views of the political parties on matters that may arise during the review process. The parties raised several issues, including those relating to the establishment of a second parliamentary chamber, the attainment of gender equality and the separation of the offices of the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice.

10. During the period under review, the Political Parties Registration Commission held a number of meetings with senior officials from SLPP. They aimed at resolving a dispute created by the decision of the National Executive Committee of SLPP decision to confer the political leadership of the party on retired Brigadier General Julius Maada Bio, the party's candidate in the presidential elections of 2012. The police responded on various occasions to incidents of violence involving members of SLPP at the party's headquarters in Freetown. At a meeting with SLPP leadership on 12 August, President Koroma stressed the need to maintain law and order and emphasized that the Government was not interfering in the internal affairs of the party. Meanwhile, the National Delegates' Conference of SLPP was held peacefully in Bo, in the southern region, on 17 and 18 August 2013. The conference elected members of the National Executive Committee and Chief Somano Kapen as the new National Chair. However, a faction of the party, which declined to participate in the election, boycotted the conference. As a result most members of the new committee were elected unopposed. Meanwhile, the ruling APC held its National Delegates' Conference in Freetown from 1 to 4 May 2013 and re-elected President Koroma as its Leader and Chairperson.

B. Security developments

11. The overall security situation in the country remained calm, but there were reports of the detention, on 16 August 2013, of nine personnel of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), for holding an "illegal secret" meeting at a Tekoh military barracks, near the city of Makeni, in the Northern Province. On 21 August, the Ministry of Defence confirmed the arrests, indicating that an investigation was under way.

12. On 30 May, the Government announced personnel changes in the RSLAF with the promotion, among others, of three Brigadier Generals and the retirement of 21 army officers. The Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces and the Sierra Leone Police continued to participate in United Nations and African Union peace operations. As at 31 July, 810 RSLAF personnel were deployed to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). In addition, 144 police officers were assigned to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and AMISOM. Three senior police officers are providing strategic advice on capacity-building to the Somali National Police.

13. During the reporting period, UNIPSIL continued to provide technical advice, mentoring and support to the Sierra Leone Police to strengthen its institutional

capacities and its command and control mechanisms, as well as accountability and oversight. UNIPSIL also procured software and computers and carried out training for the Sierra Leone Police to enhance asset management within the force. Cooperation between RSLAF and the Sierra Leone Police is also being improved through a review of the Military Assistance to Civilian Power Protocol. Both activities will continue to be funded with donor support.

14. At the request of the Sierra Leone Police, UNIPSIL and the International Security Advisory Team, led by the United Kingdom, provided technical advice to Sierra Leone Police on the use of lethal force as a last resort. UNIPSIL and the International Security Advisory Team also provided technical assistance to the Operational Support Division of the Sierra Leone Police in handling firearms during public disturbances. The authority of local commanders over different units of the police was re-established in order to improve accountability in the use of firearms.

15. UNIPSIL and the International Security Advisory Team assisted the Sierra Leone Police with the establishment of an Integrity Committee, under the aegis of its Complaints, Disciplinary and Internal Investigations Department, to support efforts to combat corruption. The Department conducted operations during the reporting period and apprehended police officers for involvement in corrupt practices. Thirty-nine police officers were relieved of their positions, as a result of their corrupt practices, in the first half of 2013.

16. UNIPSIL continued to provide technical support for the creation of the Independent Police Complaints Committee, which was first recommended in the report of the Shears-Moses Commission of Inquiry. The Committee's membership will include civil society and the Human Rights Commission. Legislation establishing the Committee is expected to be submitted to Parliament in due course. It will be charged, inter alia, with the investigation of cases of unlawful death arising from police actions.

III. Socioeconomic developments and activities of the United Nations country team

17. On 12 July, President Koroma launched Sierra Leone's third poverty reduction strategy, known as the Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018). The strategy has eight pillars: (a) economic diversification to promote inclusive growth; (b) managing mineral resources; (c) accelerating progress on the Millennium Development Goals for human development; (d) international competitiveness; (e) employment and labour strategy; (f) social protection; (g) governance and public sector reform; and (h) gender. The President stated that the Agenda was a road map through which the country would attain middle-income and donor status within the next 25 to 50 years. With this initiative, Sierra Leone has fulfilled the "One vision, one plan" focus of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States within the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, developed through the forum of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State building, for which Sierra Leone is one of seven pilot countries. The country has also completed its fragility assessment and published a poverty profile that indicates a reduction in overall poverty from 66.4 per cent in 2003 to 52.9 per cent in 2011. However, the Human Development Index for 2012, which ranked Sierra Leone at 177 out of 187

countries, shows modest improvements in the country's socioeconomic development.

18. Preliminary estimates from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicate that Sierra Leone's economy is on track to achieve the projected growth of 13.3 per cent, as output in the mining, agriculture, construction, manufacturing and services sectors continues to expand. The fairly stable macroeconomic performance in the first half of 2013 has sustained this trend. The national year-on-year inflation rate of above 11 per cent has been stable, but declined to 10.86 per cent at the end of May 2013. This is mainly a reflection of the stability of international prices of food and petroleum products, the relative stability of the exchange rate, improved domestic food supply and a tight monetary policy.

19. An IMF mission visited Sierra Leone from 7 to 20 May 2013. Discussions between the delegation and Government officials focused on continued support for investment in infrastructure and human development, reducing the rate of inflation to a single digit, facilitating access to financial services and creating an environment conducive to private sector development and job creation. The delegation and the Government agreed that structural reforms should focus on bolstering revenue mobilization, strengthening public financial management by maintaining prudent borrowing policies, and deepening financial intermediation.

20. Land disputes were recorded in a number of districts during the period under review, partly due to the increasing expansion of the extractive industry and commercial agriculture. In some instances, land-owning families complained that community land was leased to investors without their consent or adequate compensation. Some communities also alleged that mining companies' activities were causing damage to property and negatively affecting the environment. Civil society organizations also raised concerns about the acquisition of arable land by commercial entities. In its Agenda for Prosperity, the Government identified several challenges in land management. It is considering a strategy that includes reforms to land ownership regulations, the participation of local communities in the design and implementation of related processes, as well as the establishment of multisectoral task teams that include civil society representatives to tackle land matters.

21. The United Nations country team is providing assistance to the Government in formulating guidelines on investment in agriculture and bioenergy. It is also rolling out an international instrument on responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security, as well as supporting the reform of the national land policy. In addition, it is supporting the Government with the establishment of a centralized geographic information system database for informed decision-making on land issues, environmental management and disaster risk management.

22. As of 30 June 2013, 2,713 Liberian refugees had opted for integration in Sierra Leone. The Government reiterated its commitment to issue residence permits, in accordance with the relevant protocols of the Economic Community of West African States. On 5 July, a one-day training workshop was organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the National Commission for Social Action for security sector agencies and other stakeholders in Kambia district. The purpose of the workshop was to increase understanding of Sierra Leone's 2007 national refugee legislation and the principles of international refugee protection.

23. In the reporting period, UNDP continued to carry out capacity-building initiatives in support of the Office of National Security of the Disaster Management Department. In particular, UNDP provided training to the Meteorological Department to improve forecasting and climate modelling services. A United Nations Task Force, under the coordination of UNDP, was established to enhance joint support for disaster prevention and management. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations continued to implement its capacity development programme, which includes the training of farmers, facilitating the formation of about 500 farmer business organizations and equipping agribusiness centres to serve as rural commercial service providers and outlets for agricultural produce and inputs. A national early warning system was set up to help the country predict, plan and respond to food and nutrition security threats. Multisectoral disaster response teams have been established at the national and district levels and are progressively becoming operational.

24. UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund continued to support local councils to engage with the private sector in income-generating investments, in the framework of the Local Governance and Economic Development Joint Programme. In the same vein, the Capital Development Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) are supporting local councils to create their development planning systems and procedures and ensure the involvement of women in local public expenditure management and financial management processes, in the context of the joint Gender Equitable Local Development programme. The programme supports women's participation in achieving equal gender balance at all levels of local governance. Specific socioeconomic investments to offer employment, business opportunities and access to basic services with a focus on women and girls are being implemented.

25. The World Health Organization (WHO) provided support to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in conducting key public interventions, including in the planning and implementation of polio prevention in the second quarter of 2013. The campaigns covered 94 per cent of the country. According to humanitarian data, over 15,000 cases of acute diarrhoea had been reported since January 2013. The country also continued to report persisting but decreasing cases of cholera in the second quarter of 2013. In total, 368 cases had been reported for 2013, as of the date of the present report. The Government developed a multisectoral and multi-year cholera preparedness and response plan from 2013 to 2017 with the support of WHO, which also supported the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to scale up its key surveillance and sanitation activities.

26. During the reporting period, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided technical, logistical and financial assistance to the Government to conduct the second demographic and health survey. The process relating to that survey will be factored into the implementation of the 2014 population and housing census programme.

IV. Advancing peacebuilding

A. Peacebuilding Commission

27. In February 2013, a joint delegation of the Peacebuilding Commission, led by the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Guillermo E. Rishchynski, visited Liberia and Sierra Leone. The delegation discussed the peace consolidation issues that will continue to demand international attention during the post-election phase with national authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The configuration will also continue to engage with Sierra Leone on the basis of the peacebuilding elements of the Agenda for Prosperity. As mandated by the Security Council, the Commission will closely review its engagement with Sierra Leone in the coming months to scale down its role, and to brief the Council on its findings in a timely manner.

28. The delegation highlighted the regional interconnectedness and commonality of both the challenges and opportunities in Liberia and Sierra Leone, with a view to enhancing cooperation with regional organizations and promoting a regional approach to peacebuilding. Following calls for it to engage at the subregional level, the Commission has expanded its efforts to develop more concrete collaboration with the Mano River Union.

B. Preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework

29. At the request of the Security Council, and in line with relevant United Nations policies, the United Nations system in Sierra Leone embarked on the process of preparing a United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which would start from 2015, for up to five years. To date, the United Nations and the Government completed the road map for the framework, undertook a retreat on the five principles of the framework, finalized a report on the country analysis and undertook a second retreat in August to draft the outcomes. The transitional joint vision (2013-2014) continues to provide a framework for United Nations programmes in support of the Government's second and third poverty reduction strategies.

V. Risks to peacebuilding

A. Corruption

30. Corruption remains a major threat to good governance and the building of citizens' confidence in the Government. The Anti-Corruption Commission maintained its three-pronged approach of prevention, education and prosecution. Underscoring the magnitude of the challenge, the Commission continued to engage with various communities on the need to combat corruption and illegal practices. It carried out reviews of ministries, departments and agencies to identify weaknesses and recommend improvements to processes susceptible to corruption.

31. During the reporting period, the Commission filed 26 court cases, mainly against public officials, including police officers and civil servants, as well as

individuals indicted for the misuse of international donor funds. During the reporting period, the Commission commenced the prosecution of several persons for a complex bank fraud involving the Sierra Leone Shipping Authority, the National Revenue Authority and some commercial banks, with an estimated value of over 40 billion leones (approximately $9.3 million).

32. While the Commission reiterated its call for the establishment of a dedicated anti-corruption court, the Sierra Leone judiciary clarified on 4 August that steps were being taken to prosecute cases filed by the Commission. The judiciary also stressed the need for compliance with court procedures. Statistics Sierra Leone, a government agency, criticized the methodology and statistical techniques used by the civil society organization Transparency International in its report of 19 July on the high level of bribery in Sierra Leone. It questioned the validity and reliability of the results, citing, inter alia, the absence of a sample frame and claiming that the sample sizes were not proportionate to the total population of the countries studied.

B. Youth

33. The Agenda for Prosperity outlines a number of interventions for addressing unemployment, which remains a major challenge for Sierra Leone. They include the creation of a national volunteer service corps, the employment of youth in the agricultural sector and improvements to the legal and institutional framework for labour administration. During the period under review, the Government began negotiations with international partners for the establishment of a youth village, valued at $30 million, to prepare youth for employment in the private sector. The United Nations country team continued to support the Government's efforts to address youth unemployment, notably by assisting the implementation of the Youth Employment and Empowerment Programme by strengthening the coordination mechanisms between the newly established Ministry of Youth Affairs and the National Youth Commission.

34. The United Nations Development Programme is also supporting a business development service to promote entrepreneurs. 1,076 youths (582 young men and 494 young women) were trained on business development and to date, 192 jobs for young men (110) and young women (82) were created in the agricultural and other business sectors. Furthermore, 396 business enterprises, of which 108 are owned by young men and 288 by young women, were expanded through funds received from microfinance operations. In order to encourage legal compliance among entrepreneurs, 108 business enterprises established by youths have been registered with the Government. In addition, more than 2,000 business operators have benefited from business mentorship services.

35. Through its graduate internship programme, which helps students with initial work experience required for a job search, UNDP continued to provide technical and financial support to the National Youth Commission. As a result, 300 graduates will receive training on information technology and interviewing skills. In addition, 56 placement institutions from the private and public sectors, as well as development partners, have been identified to host interns.

36. A programme funded by the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide temporary jobs for 1,500 persons between the ages of 19 and 32 commenced in the western area of Sierra Leone. Participants will also receive daily rations for five

family members, thus increasing the number of beneficiaries to 7,500 persons. The programme has equal male and female representation.

C. Illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime

37. During the reporting period, the cultivation of *cannabis sativa* continued and aversely affected food security efforts. In most cases, it is grown for local consumption and export to neighbouring countries. No significant quantities of cocaine and heroin were seized.

38. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UNIPSIL continued to support the Transnational Organized Crime Unit of the Sierra Leone Police. In March, the Transnational Organized Crime Unit and its Liberian counterparts exchanged information on best practices and strengthened their working relationships. Also in March, a Finnish national wanted for fraud and tax evasion estimated at 30 million euros was arrested by the Unit with technical support from UNIPSIL. On 17 May, building on the recommendations of the West Africa Coast Initiative, UNODC arranged for the training of judges on serious cases related to organized crime and the authentication of drug exhibits. The Unit continues to maintain a personnel of 55 staff members, of whom 53 are stationed in Freetown and 2 at Lungi International Airport.

39. An evaluation team, comprising representatives of the Department of Political Affairs and the United Nations Office for West Africa, UNODC, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) visited Sierra Leone from 9 to 19 April 2013. The team assessed the implementation of the West Africa Coast Initiative and the impact of the closure of UNIPSIL, on 31 March 2014, on support provided by UNIPSIL to the Transnational Organized Crime Unit. The team also assessed the coordination mechanism between implementing partners and the Sierra Leone Police and other law enforcement authorities in the country. The team concluded that the partner agencies of the Transnational Organized Crime Unit were satisfied with the West Africa Coast Initiative and its implementation in Sierra Leone.

VI. Human rights and the rule of law

40. During the reporting period, UNIPSIL continued to implement and transfer its mandated responsibilities to the relevant national partners, in accordance with its transition plan. UNIPSIL also pursued the provision of technical advice in a number of areas, as outlined below.

A. National Human Rights Commission

41. From 15 to 18 May, UNIPSIL organized a conference and training on strategies for monitoring human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and for advocacy, in Makeni (Northern Province), in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone. Training programmes on prison reform were also held in May, in Kono and Freetown, for prison and correction officers, with the support of UNIPSIL. The training programme

highlighted the findings of a recent report produced by UNIPSIL and the Government, entitled "Opening minds to rights behind bars". It also provided a skills-building opportunity for staff of the National Human Rights Commission. The Commission will assume responsibility for tasks performed by UNIPSIL, such as organizing and coordinating district human rights committees and co-chairing the Human Rights Working Group, the justice and human rights forums and the human rights media programme.

B. International treaty reporting

42. In June 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation submitted Sierra Leone's initial report on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, with the assistance of UNIPSIL. UNIPSIL also continued to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs on the preparation of Sierra Leone's country report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

C. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights

43. In April 2013, UNIPSIL organized a capacity-building programme for the project in support of Pride Equality, a local non-governmental organization, on monitoring and documenting violations of the human rights of members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and conducting advocacy for that community in Sierra Leone. The training outlined strategies for advocacy and for funding support to the organization, which will continue to carry out the campaign to uphold the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in the country. A total of 50 local activists for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community participated in the training, which underscored the protection and promotion of persons with a different sexual and gender identity as a fundamental human right.

D. Juveniles and children in conflict

44. In April 2013, UNIPSIL, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Sierra Leone Police produced standard operating procedures relating to the treatment of juveniles and children in conflict with the law and the role of the police in combating violence against women and children, which remains a serious challenge.

E. Persons with disabilities

45. UNIPSIL provided technical support to the National Commission for Persons with Disability for the organization of a strategic planning workshop in Freetown, held on 30 May. UNIPSIL also formulated key interventions for the strategic plan of the Commission in the areas of employment and income, education, health care and reproductive health, livelihood, access to social services and social inclusion, integration and participation.

F. Visit of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

46. UNIPSIL provided support for the visit to Sierra Leone of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt, from 30 June to 5 July. The Special Rapporteur met with the Vice-President and senior Government officials, as well as with interfaith groups and civil society organizations. He highlighted the positive level of religious tolerance in the country. His report will be presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2014.

G. Rule of law

47. UNDP continued to carry out several rule of law activities in support of the peace consolidation process, including for enhancing access to justice. In April and August 2013, UNDP and its national implementing partner, Timap for Justice, provided extensive training to civil society organizations' court monitors, from over 80 organizations, on newly developed court monitoring tools and paralegal skills.

H. Gender issues

48. The United Nations provided technical and financial support to Government counterparts for the celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March. During the ceremony, President Koroma reiterated his Government's commitment to gender equality, citing the appointment of women to several public positions, a proposal to establish a National Commission for Women, and the inclusion of a gender pillar in the Government's Agenda for Prosperity. The President also noted the need for gender equality legislation. At the ceremony, a position paper was presented by a coalition of women's organizations to the Government and the international community on four major themes: (a) women and governance; (b) women and energy; (c) women and enterprise development; and (d) women and health.

49. On 4 and 5 April, UN-Women organized a two-day training workshop for women parliamentarians in Makeni, with the support of the United Nations Gender Theme Group. The training was aimed at enhancing the ability of women parliamentarians to assess parliamentary bills and interact with their constituents, as well as to reinforce their positions as role models.

50. UNDP supported the Sierra Leone Police in finalizing the standard operating procedures and case management guidelines for dealing with sexual offences handled by the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police. A roll-out of the training of trainers in this area commenced on 29 July, for 25 police officers, and additional training sessions are envisaged in September 2013.

51. In July, President Koroma launched the Strategy for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy as part of activities to commemorate World Population Day. The strategy was developed with technical support from UNFPA, also working in partnership with the Population Council to develop an Adolescent Girls Initiative programme in support of the Government's efforts to deal with teenage issues. At the same time, UNFPA began discussions with WFP on the provision of nutritional products to teenage mothers through the Adolescent Girls Initiative.

VII. Regional cooperation

52. On 3 June, the Government of Sierra Leone announced that Yenga, a town in the eastern region of Sierra Leone occupied by Guinean Armed Forces since 1999, had been demilitarized in accordance with an agreement of 27 July 2012 between the Governments of Guinea and Sierra Leone. The Government added that Guinean Armed Forces had effectively withdrawn their personnel and equipment from the area. Military patrols have been reactivated by the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces and the Guinean Armed Forces on their respective sides of the border.

53. During the reporting period, eight meetings of the joint border security and confidence-building units were held by the Mano River Union, with financial assistance from the Peacebuilding Fund and technical support from UNIPSIL. The meetings strengthened interaction between border communities in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, and helped enhance the fight against illicit drug trafficking and arms proliferation. The Mano River Union also organized five capacity-building workshops for security sector agencies from Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

VIII. United Nations transition arrangements

A. Programme responsibilities

54. UNIPSIL continued to make detailed arrangements for the transfer of its programme responsibilities to the United Nations country team and other relevant stakeholders. Support to the media, including the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation and the Independent Media Commission, and to the extractive industry, as well as capacity-building programmes and engagement with civil society will be carried out by the relevant United Nations funds, programmes and agencies. UNIPSIL and the United Nations country team will also develop a comprehensive communications strategy that covers the United Nations transition and beyond. Three programme documents have been formulated to provide a strong basis for continued support to the Government during and after the transfer of responsibilities from the United Nations political mission to the United Nations country team, in accordance with the mandate areas identified in resolution 2097 (2013).

1. Constitutional review process

55. Further to the request of the Government of Sierra Leone, a joint mission of the Department of Political Affairs and UNDP visited Sierra Leone from 22 to 26 April 2013. The joint mission held discussions with the Government and relevant stakeholders on the scope of United Nations assistance to the constitutional review process. The United Nations and the Government subsequently signed a comprehensive project document on 18 July. The total cost of the project will be $4.2 million, of which the Government will contribute about 26 per cent. The European Union and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom have committed to fill the financial gap. The project, which will be managed by UNDP, aims to ensure a transparent and fully inclusive process leading to a constitution that would be fully acceptable to the people of Sierra Leone. It will also contribute to enhance the capacity of the Constitutional Review Committee to undertake the process and to, inter alia, make available legal and research services.

A strong communications and outreach strategy is envisaged for the process, as well as a civil society-led civic education campaign. In the same vein, until its closure, UNIPSIL will continue to facilitate political dialogue for the constitutional review process, including by supporting the participation of non-State actors, in particular political parties, women and youth groups, as well as traditional and religious leaders, through a programme to be financed by the Peacebuilding Fund.

2. Security sector reform programme

56. A joint UNDP/Department of Peacekeeping Operations assessment team visited Sierra Leone from 23 March to 10 May 2013, as part of a programme formulation mission in support of the Sierra Leone security sector, in consultation with relevant national and international stakeholders, as part of UNIPSIL transition planning, and as a specific recommendation of the United Nations technical assessment mission of January 2013. UNIPSIL, UNDP and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations subsequently finalized a programme document focusing on United Nations support to the security sector for the subsequent two years. The programme aims at enhancing coordination among line ministries, departments and agencies, as well as reviewing the legislative framework for the Police towards enhancing the modernization of the force. The envisaged outputs include (a) improved professionalism for more effective service delivery; (b) stronger community policing mechanisms that are responsive to public needs; (c) greater security sector governance, oversight and coordination; and (d) improved border security for enhanced public safety.

57. The programme embraces the principle that security is fundamental to development, providing for a smooth transfer of UNIPSIL police and security-related activities to UNDP, UNODC and relevant United Nations agencies on the ground to avoid substantive gaps during the transition. Meanwhile, UNIPSIL continued to work in close collaboration with national and international partners and other United Nations agencies on the transition process in the security sector. The next steps in this regard would include the finalization of funding commitments for the programme.

3. Conflict prevention programme

58. A conflict prevention programme that will build on UNIPSIL efforts to strengthen local mediation mechanisms and promote dialogue and assistance will be finalized shortly. The beneficiaries will include critical national institutions, including the Political Parties Registration Commission, the National Commission for Democracy and the National Council of Paramount Chiefs, as well as cross-party political associations. The programme will compiement the constitutional review process and include provisions for the establishment of early warning mechanisms in all 149 chiefdoms of Sierra Leone, as well as support to national efforts for the promotion of political inclusion. The programme will also aim at harnessing the positive contributions of traditional authorities and adherence to relevant codes of conduct. The programme prioritizes women's groups, in order for them to become major stakeholders in conflict prevention and resolution.

59. Funding arrangements for the programme are under discussion with relevant potential donors and partners. Oversight of the programme will be a key

responsibility of a peace and development adviser, who will support the United Nations resident coordinator following the closure of UNIPSIL.

4. Human rights and the rule of law

60. As noted earlier, the National Human Rights Commission has progressively assumed a significant number of the functions performed by the Human Rights Section of UNIPSIL. The section will close in December 2013, and a human rights adviser to the resident coordinator is expected to be deployed by early 2014. The human rights adviser will also foster continued cooperation between the Commission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. UNDP will continue to provide support to the Commission in the area of rule of law.

5. Transition steering group

61. As requested by the Security Council, and following consultations between the Government of Sierra Leone, international partners and the United Nations country team, mapping of the international community's support to Sierra Leone, in particular regarding the transfer of residual functions currently provided by UNIPSIL, is being completed. The map spells out the current mandated responsibilities of UNIPSIL and matches them with potential successor entities which would assume the residual responsibilities.

B. Administrative arrangements

1. Staffing issues

62. During the reporting period, the process of drawing down UNIPSIL was carefully calibrated to allow for the execution of outstanding mandate responsibilities. The aviation unit closed on 31 March, followed by the Democratic Institutions Section on 30 June 2013. The Human Rights section will close on 31 December 2013, while the Office of my Executive Representative, the Political Affairs and Peace Consolidation Section and the Police and Security Unit will remain operational until 31 March 2014, with appropriate and progressive staff reductions. The Mission Support Section will close on 31 May 2014.

63. As of 1 July 2013, the total staff strength of UNIPSIL was 68, consisting of 32 international staff members, 28 national staff members and 8 United Nations Volunteers. Downsizing will continue until 31 December 2013.

2. Liquidation plan

64. UNIPSIL has developed a plan, in collaboration with the Department of Field Support, for the liquidation of all UNIPSIL assets, movable and immovable, in accordance with relevant United Nations policies and procedures. In addition, through a preliminary asset disposal plan, United Nations-owned equipment will be shipped to other missions, made available to United Nations agencies, disposed of through commercial sale to the public, or donated to the Government, as appropriate. These tasks will be completed no later than 30 May 2014.

IX. Observations

65. I commend the people and the Government of Sierra Leone for the significant progress that has been made since the end of the civil war in consolidating peace, and especially during the period under review. With the continued strengthening of democratic institutions and the expansion of infrastructure, the country is firmly establishing a path towards sustainable stability and socioeconomic development.

66. I am encouraged by Sierra Leone's positive economic outlook and its prospects for continued growth. However, I am concerned by the increasing number of land disputes between commercial entities and local communities. If not properly addressed, they could create further communal tensions with broader economic and public order ramifications. I therefore welcome proposals under consideration by the Government and other partners to address this issue. The United Nations is ready to assist the Government in such efforts.

67. I am encouraged by progress made in advancing the constitutional review process with the establishment of a Constitutional Review Committee and I commend President Koroma for his leadership in this regard. The review is vital to consolidating peace. The composition of the Constitutional Review Committee, with very broad representation, is a starting point in ensuring that the voices of all Sierra Leoneans are heard and taken into account in this important endeavour. I call on Sierra Leone's political parties and other stakeholders to put national interests above all other considerations during the review process, which represents an opportunity to revisit and enhance the role of Sierra Leone's democratic institutions, promote the rule of law, justice and good governance and ensure the country's socioeconomic progress and durable peace. I urge Sierra Leone's international partners to continue to provide the necessary technical and financial support to this process.

68. I also welcome President Koroma's zero-tolerance commitment against corruption, as well as the country's efforts to combat this threat. Fighting corruption is a foundation of good governance and is vital for building citizens' confidence in government institutions. I further call upon the Anti-Corruption Commission to continue its campaign and urge its partners to provide strong support to the Commission.

69. I note the increasing tensions and intra-party disputes facing some of Sierra Leone's political parties, and I urge the leadership of those parties to peacefully resolve their differences through dialogue in the interest of their own parties and for the sake of multiparty democracy in the country. I call on Sierra Leone's youth and women's associations to continue to serve as platforms for building national cohesion.

70. The transfer of relevant responsibilities of UNIPSIL to the United Nations country team and to national and international partners is in line with the country's progress. The transfer is proceeding in accordance with the transition plan. Arrangements for the complete drawdown of UNIPSIL are on track, with the objective of ensuring that no gaps are created by its exit on 31 March 2014.

71. At the same time, the continued assistance of Sierra Leone's international partners is necessary to complement national efforts in overcoming the remaining challenges to improve living standards, access to health care and other social services, as well as to reduce unemployment. In that regard, I urge development

partners to fill the funding gaps identified by UNIPSIL for the implementation of Sierra Leone's third poverty reduction strategy, known as the Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018). Further support to the United Nations country team through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process is also critical.

72. As the Peacebuilding Commission reviews its engagement with Sierra Leone to scale down its future role, it is pertinent that, during the process, it continues to play an important complementary role in support of the Government and its Agenda for Prosperity, in close coordination with the United Nations transition process. I continue to encourage the Peacebuilding Commission to help sustain international support for Sierra Leone and to engage in resource mobilization efforts to address part of the shortfall on a cost-sharing basis, including through the Peacebuilding Fund.

73. In conclusion, I wish to thank President Koroma and his Government for their continued cooperation with the United Nations. I am also grateful to the development partners of Sierra Leone for their critical assistance to the country's peacebuilding process. Finally, I thank my Executive Representative, Mr. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, and the staff of UNIPSIL, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other international and regional partners, for their work and dedication to the implementation of the mandate of UNIPSIL.